

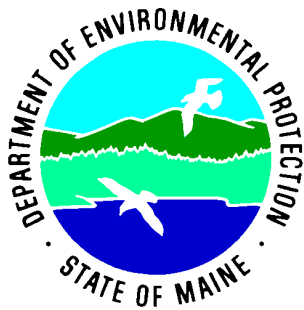


Maine Stream Team Program NEWS

Networking, Education, and Stewardship

Volume 1, Issue 2

Spring 2001



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MSTP
Spring Newsletter!

Project Highlight! **Stormdrain Stenciling!**

Did you know that more oil washes down stormwater drains each year than was spilled by the Exxon Valdez? Stormdrains are not waste receptacles. Many stormwater drains empty directly into streams and rivers. The Center for Marine Conservation, based out of Virginia Beach, VA sponsors a program called "Million Points of Blight". It is a stormdrain stenciling program.

Stormdrain stenciling is a process by which volunteers stencil warning messages on stormdrains to alert the public about the effects of dumping polluted materials down their drain. Stenciled statements such as "*Don't Dump-Protect Your Water*" or "*No Dumping-Drains to Stream*" can be effective reminders that storm drains are not a place for pollutants.

So far, over 330,000 storm drains have been painted by volunteers in 34 states and Canada! State and local governments, as well as private groups and citizens



have all joined in. Stormdrain stenciling is a wonderful project for a neighborhood association or even a school group. To learn more about how to do a stormdrain stenciling project and help keep your streams clean, contact the Maine Stream Team Program. It's a perfect spring or summer project!



**Check us out on the
Web!**
**[www.state.me.us/
dep/blwq/docstream/
team/streamteam.htm](http://www.state.me.us/dep/blwq/docstream/team/streamteam.htm)**

Stream Team Profiles!

1) Mount Desert Island Water Quality Coalition Stream Team (Stream Team # 2)

The MDI Water Quality Coalition Stream Team has had an exciting first year! We're concentrating on Eddie Brook, a small stream that flows from Acadia National Park, through Bar Harbor, and empties into the ocean near mussel and clam beds. High school student volunteers have been monitoring fecal coliform bacteria, dissolved oxygen, and water temperature levels in the brook and its outflow. An independent study student will additionally monitor phosphorous in the stream this spring. Volunteers in the after school MDI Water Keepers Club have also been keeping an eye on salinity in Eddie Brook during road salting season. This spring Eddie Brook will again be the focus of a stream cleanup event as we celebrate National River Cleanup Week. We hope to especially target stream front property owners and students to participate in this day of fun and service. [by Janet Redman]



Eddie Brook, Mount Desert Island

2) Frost Gully Stream Team (Stream Team # 1)

The Frost Gully Stream Team includes a dozen residents that are heartfelt about protecting the wildlife and water quality in the Frost Gully Brook watershed, located in Freeport, Maine. The majority of members are descendants from an old Freeport family (Griffins) and most are riparian landowners. The brook originates near Rt 136, flows south under I-95 and RT-1, then empties into the Harraseeket River estuary. From 1891 to the mid- 1970s, it was the town's only water supply, which is one reason why the brook has been well maintained. Despite some good stewardship in the past, however, the growing imperviousness of the downtown area is adding stormwater into the bottom section of the brook, which, historically, has resulted in shellfish closures.



Some Members of Frost Gully Stream Team
(left to right) Dr. Peter Lea (Bowdoin Professor), Bob Small (landowner), Brad Guay (Team Leader)

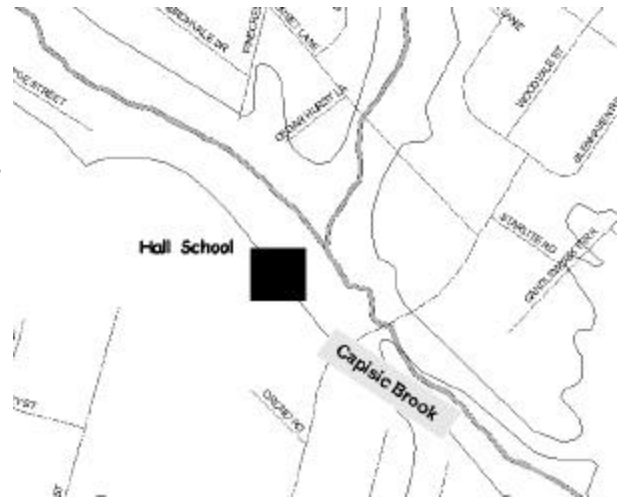
The Team was recognized in *The Forecaster* as the first in the state (10/5/00). At the Team's organizational meeting, members decided they wanted to perform water quality monitoring (spring 2001) and resource advocacy. Last fall, they petitioned the town's conservation commission to purchase an easement of the water company's property, since it comprises the mid-section of the stream. In addition, the team's coordinator, Brad Guay, a hydrologist and Freeport resident, arranged to have Bowdoin College's hydrology class (Dr. Peter Lea) begin collecting flow and water quality data during the fall 2000. Guay also has a MDEP contract to sample 5 stormwater events prior to fall 2001. Spring activities will begin in April and include sampler training and the construction of staff gages.

Happy Clamming! [by Brad Guay]

3) Hall Stream Team (Stream Team # 9)...

The Hall Stream Team is made up of the 4th and 5th grade science students of Hall Elementary School in Portland. Their stream of concern is Capisic Brook, a stream behind their school. Over the winter they have been looking at the ecological and human characteristics of the Capisic Brook stream corridor and preparing for a series of sampling events (scheduled to take place this spring) which will look at water quality parameters. This June, in conjunction with the City of Portland, Portland Trails, Rails to Trails Conservancy, as well as the local resident and school community they will do a large scale clean-up of the stream and the surrounding riparian zone in preparation for the "Greenway" plan established for the Brook.

Their team leader and teacher, Mrs. Kristin Uhlig, is looking forward to keeping the Hall Stream Team involved in upcoming years. This is her first group of 4th and 5th graders to be a part of the MSTP and it's been an educational and fun endeavor so far. Good work Hall! [by Heather Girard/Kristin Uhlig]



* Send us a profile of your team!!! Include a short description with a photo and it could be featured in our next "Stream Team Profiles"!

Announcing the 1st Annual (Maine) Stream Team Day!!

When: Saturday, June 16, 2001
Where: Maine Audubon Society's Gilsland Farm, Falmouth
Cost: Free!
Bring: Walking shoes, sunscreen, blanket
Food: Refreshments provided.

The days events are still under construction, but here's what we have so far:

Morning: Talks, Exhibits and Activities for the Kids

- Water Pollution Basics (Matt Hight, Maine DEP)
- The Effects of Sediment on Fish and Their Habitat (Melissa Evers, Maine DEP)
- Landscaping to Reduce Your Impact On Streams, Rivers, and Casco Bay (Friends of Casco Bay)
- The Importance of Streamside Vegetation and Wood to Streams (Jeff Varricchione, Maine DEP)

Afternoon: Exhibits, Networking, or just enjoy the Audubon Society

Click on the calendar on our website periodically for updates and details about this event! Contact us if you have questions or if you would like to be involved in the organization of this event!

Please carpool if you can!



Calendar



Would you like to use this calendar and/or the website calendar to help spread the word about your events and/or meetings related to streams or rivers? Send the information to the MSTP address on the back of this newsletter. As more information becomes available for the events below, we will post it in future newsletters and on the "news & calendar" page at our website .

(Deadline for submitting calendar items, articles, or profiles for the summer newsletter is June 27, 2001.)

Maine Water Conference May 3, 2001

Location: Augusta Civic Center, Augusta

Session Topics: Drinking water and health & source water assessment program; stream and river quality; water contamination and remediation; atmospheric deposition and water quality; how wetlands work; poster session. On the Web, visit <<http://www.umaine.edu/WaterResearch/2001MWC/intro.html>> for more information.



Stonefly Nymph

Stream Walk Trainings! Spring, Summer and Autumn, 2001

Please see the article on page 8 of this newsletter.

East Machias River Clean-Up and Tree Planting. May 5, 2001.

The Downeast Salmon Federation, East Machias Watershed Council, and several other community organizations will be performing a river clean-up and planting over 200 trees and shrubs along the East Machias River on May 5th. The planting will take place in the town of East Machias, downstream of the old dam site. The plants were made available through the Natural Resources Conservation Service Wildlife Habitat Incentive Program and their plant material center. There will be some tools available, but extra shovels and the will to use them are more than welcome! For more information please contact NRCS at 255-3995, extension 3, or <dave.garcelon@me.usda.gov>.

Saco River Salmon Club Hatchery Open House. May 5, 2001.

The Saco River Salmon Club Hatchery is holding an Open House of its hatchery facility Saturday, May 5, 2001. Hatchery volunteers will be available for tours from 9:00 a.m. until 3:00 p.m. We are located 2.5 miles south of the intersection of Routes 111 and 9 in Biddeford. Look for the blue Bureau of Parks and Lands Boat Launch sign. The entrance will be on the left off of Route 9. Hope to see you there! This will be a great opportunity to see how Atlantic salmon are raised from eggs to fry in a re-circulating hatchery. You can telephone the Hatchery at 282-6985.

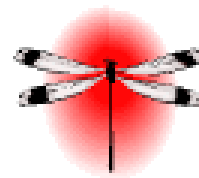
Water Quality Monitoring Volunteer Training Day for Presumpscot River Watch. May 5, 2001.

This training will last from 9 am –12 pm. For more information, contact Sarah McNair at <sarah.mcnair@state.me.us> or 207-822-6356. You may also contact Presumpscot River Watch at <prw@maine.rr.com> , <mainetoday.koz.com/maine/prw> or 207-781-4462.

Androscoggin River Watershed Conference. May 8, 2001.

The Androscoggin River Watershed Council will hold the Seventh Watershed Conference on May 8th from 8:30 AM to 3:00 PM at the Bethel Inn in Bethel, Maine. The Watershed Council was formally organized in the summer of 1999 after over 6 years of work by a wide variety of interests in the Androscoggin River Watershed. The conference brings together these diverse interests to learn more about the watershed and the river and to learn about many exciting projects on the river. Past conferences have addressed projects as far ranging as the conservation of important riparian lands, the development of shoreline trails, and the revitalization of the anadromous fishery. This year the conference will have a focus on education and the continuing learning opportunities that the river and its watershed provides. The conference offers sessions for teachers, residents of the watershed, and various representatives of both the public and private sectors. For more information, contact Ferg Lea (207-783-9186 or <flea@avcog.org> [email]) or Marcel Polak (603-466-2524 or <mpolak@amcinfo.org> [email]).

Calendar (cont.)



Narraguagus River cleanup and tree planting . May 12th, 2001

For more info, contact the Downeast Salmon Federation's Wild Salmon Resource Center: <www.mainesalmonrivers.org> or (207)483-4336.

Narraguagus West Branch trail stabilization. May 13, 2001

For more info, contact the Downeast Salmon Federation's Wild Salmon Resource Center: <www.mainesalmonrivers.org> or (207)483-4336.

East Machias / DSF property planting and cleanup. May 19, 2001

For more info, contact the Downeast Salmon Federation's Wild Salmon Resource Center: <www.mainesalmonrivers.org> or (207)483-4336.

Presumpscot River Watch Canoe Adventure. May 26, 2001. For more information, contact Sarah McNeil at < sarah.mcnair@state.me.us > (email) or 207-822-6356. You may also contact Presumpscot River Watch at < prw@maine.rr.com > (e-mail), < mainetoday.koz.com/maine/prw > (website), or 207-781-4462.

Pleasant River tree planting. June 9, 2001

For more info, contact the Downeast Salmon Federation's Wild Salmon Resource Center: <www.mainesalmonrivers.org> or (207)483-4336.

AmeriCorps Service day at Downeast Salmon Federation. June 12, 2001

For more info, contact the Downeast Salmon Federation's Wild Salmon Resource Center: <www.mainesalmonrivers.org> or (207)483-4336.

Stream Team Day! June 16, 2001

Hosted at the Audubon Society's beautiful Gilsland Farm, Falmouth (See ad on page 3 of this newsletter!)

Narraguagus River Canoe trip. June 23, 2001.

For more info, contact the Downeast Salmon Federation's Wild Salmon Resource Center: <www.mainesalmonrivers.org> or (207)483-4336.

Narraguagus WC 4th July booth @ parade . June 30, 2001.

For more info, contact the Downeast Salmon Federation's Wild Salmon Resource Center: <www.mainesalmonrivers.org> or (207)483-4336.

Narraguagus RWC Little River bridge project (stabilization). July 14, 2001

For more info, contact the Downeast Salmon Federation's Wild Salmon Resource Center: <www.mainesalmonrivers.org> or (207)483-4336.

Androscoggin River Source to the Sea Canoe Trek. July 5 - July 25, 2001.

The sixth annual Androscoggin River Source to the Sea Canoe Trek celebrates the renaissance of this New England river with a series of guided canoe trips and riverside educational programs from the river's headwaters in New Hampshire to the tidewaters of the Gulf of Maine. Stream Team director Jeff Varricchione is planning to join the Trek on July 15 in the Dixfield area. Free and open to the public, participants need only bring or rent a canoe. This year's Trek will launch July 5 and finish July 25. For information, contact Trek Coordinator Sue Lincoln at 207-824-4627, or < slincoln@nxi.com >. Or check our website at < www.androscogginriver.org >

Friends of Tunk Council and Celebration. July 21-22, 2001

For more info, contact the Downeast Salmon Federation's Wild Salmon Resource Center: <www.mainesalmonrivers.org> or (207)483-4336.

Maine Rivers Conference. September or October 2001

This conference is intended to promote an understanding of current river issues and facilitate networking among river advocates. For more information, contact Betsy Ham at Maine Rivers [phone: 622-3101; e-mail: <bham@nrcm.org>]. Location and date details have yet to be determined

\$\$ Funding Section \$\$

There's a lot of work to be done on Maine's streams but who's going to pay for it? There's a lot of money out there but how do we get our hands on it? The MSTP is working on developing a "Fundraising Workshop". It will cover everything from fundraising events and tactics to grant writing. What we need is your input. We want the workshop to cover topics and answer questions that are important to you and your goals! Please contact us to help develop this valuable resource.

Some Funding Resources

If you are an organization that would like to advertise your grant program, please send the MSTP a brief description and we will try to post it in our next newsletter.

\$ Teacher Mini-Grant Program (Portland Water District area). The Portland Water District is once again offering mini-grants to support your water quality education programs. Grants are available to all educators in the Sebago Lake Watershed and the Portland Water District Service Area with preference given to teachers who have not participated in the program before. Details about the program may be obtained by visiting their website at <<http://www.pwd.org/education/mini%20grant.htm>> or by contacting Roberta by phone at 774-5961 (ext. 3323) or by email at <hill@pwd.org>.

\$ Maine DEP Nonpoint Source Water Pollution Control Grants ("319 Grants"). The primary objective of NPS projects is to prevent or reduce nonpoint source pollutant loadings entering water resources so that beneficial uses of the water resources are maintained or restored. Maine public organizations such as state agencies, soil and water conservation districts, regional planning agencies, watershed districts, municipalities, and nonprofit (501(c)(3)) organizations are eligible to receive NPS grants. For more information, visit <<http://janus.state.me.us/dep/blwq/grants.htm#319>>

\$ Maine Department of Transportation Surface Water Quality Protection Program (SWQPP). Maine's surface water bodies are among its most valuable resources. The Maine Department of Transportation (MDOT) is committed to protecting these resources by minimizing impacts from transportation related activities. The MDOT has recently created a Surface Water Quality Protection Program (SWQPP), which targets areas where surface water bodies may be impacted by stormwater runoff associated with highway use. Candidate projects can be nominated to the SWQPP by any individual or group. The Program Committee scores the nominations. Nominations with the highest scores are selected for immediate funding, and the remaining nominations are prioritized for possible funding at a later date. The Program Manager works with local contacts, such as conservation groups and municipalities, and the MDOT staff to develop project designs. The designs consist of unique combinations of erosion and sedimentation control Best Management Practices, with an emphasis on visual improvement of the sites. Projects are generally developed by the MDOT, including obtaining permits and federal sign-offs. The projects are constructed by MDOT Maintenance crews or a local contractor who is certified in erosion and sedimentation control by the Maine Department of Environmental Protection. Landscaping is often done by local volunteer groups.

With its second construction season completed in 2000, the SWQPP has built eleven projects state-wide. The MDOT currently has \$600,000 available for a two-year period, and plans to continue construction of projects as long as the funding is available. Individuals or groups interested in application details should contact the Program Manager, Susan Breau, at MDOT's Environmental Office, 16 State House Station, Augusta, ME 04333-0016, by phone at 287-3363, or by email at <susan.breau@state.me.us>.

How Do I Join the MSTP?

It's easy! First, choose a stream or stream segment. Next, either obtain a "stream team registration form" by contacting our office or fill out the online registration form. After registering, you will receive some helpful information and begin to receive our quarterly newsletter to help you stay up-to-date!

Membership to the program is free to any interested citizen, family, or organization! Once you have a "Team" and a stream, you're set! You can determine your stream's values and problems and you can plan projects based on your assessments. You can establish the course of events in protecting your stream. The Maine Stream Team Program can help you with ideas, advice, and informational materials, but only your "Team" has the power to get things done.!



Safety Tip

Please be cautious when working around streams and rivers, especially during periods of high flow (generally spring and autumn)! Streams and rivers are beautiful areas, but there often are hazards, such as deep holes, fast currents, sharp objects, and slippery surfaces, in and around these areas that one must be aware of in order to reduce the risk of getting injured.

Thank You!



MAINE STREAM TEAM PROGRAM RESOURCES

For additional information, please visit our website or contact us directly.

Videos*

- **After the Rain: Urban Runoff** (Oregon State University Extension Service)
- **Organizing a Successful River Cleanup** (America Outdoors and National River Cleanup Week)
- **The Streamkeeper Video** {with Bill Nye "The Science Guy"} (The Adopt-A-Stream Foundation)
- **Urban Stream Restoration with Ann Riley** (Waterways Restoration Institute)

Stream-Related Publications*

- **Living Waters: Using Benthic Macroinvertebrates and Habitat to Assess Your River's Health** (River Watch Network)
- **Streamkeeper's Field Guide: Watershed Inventory and Stream Monitoring Methods** (Adopt-A-Stream Foundation)
- **Testing the Waters: Chemical and Physical Vital Signs of a River** (River Watch Network)
- **Volunteer Stream Monitoring: A Methods Manual** (U.S.E.P.A. Office of Water)

Teacher-Specific Stream Publications*

- **Hands On Save Our Streams: The Save Our Streams Teachers Manual** (Izaak Walton League of America)
- **Rivers Curriculum** series [In four separate volumes: **Biology**, **Chemistry**, **Earth Sciences**, and **Geography** (Southern Illinois University)]

*The MSTP has a limited number of copies of these publications. These materials can be loaned out for a period of 3 weeks only. If you are interested in having your own copy, contact the MSTP for purchasing information.

Stream Walk Training!

Stream Walks are designed to teach folks about basic stream ecology and issues. Participants walk part or the entire length of their local streams to investigate whether potential pollution sources and other problems are occurring. Stream Walks are a great way to learn more about your stream, its habitat, and the impacts that land uses can have on it! You can present your findings to your school, neighbors, or community leaders. You can also send your findings to The Maine Stream Team Program where it could be used to help prioritize future stream protection efforts.



CHECK OUR WEBSITE FOR AN UPCOMING TRAINING –or–
CONTACT THE **MSTP** ABOUT THE POSSIBILITY OF ARRANGING
A STREAM WALK TRAINING IN YOUR AREA!

Contact The Maine Stream Team Program (MSTP):

Mail: Maine Stream Team Program c/o Maine DEP
312 Canco Road
Portland, Maine 04103

E-mail: mstp@state.me.us

Internet: [www.state.me.us/dep/blwq/docstream/
team/streamteam.htm](http://www.state.me.us/dep/blwq/docstream/team/streamteam.htm)

Phone: (888)769-1036 (toll free – ask for the Maine Stream Team Program);
(207)822-6317 (Jeff Varricchione); (207)822-6427 (Heather Girard)

Deadline for submitting calendar items, articles, or profiles for the summer newsletter is June 27,
2001...Thanks!



Maine Stream Team Program
c/o Maine DEP
312 Canco Road
Portland, Maine 04103

